जवाहर रोजगार योजना के तहत सामाजिक वानिकी के अन्तर्गत वृक्षारोपण एक अनुमेय कार्यकलाप है । किसी कार्यकलाप का वास्तविक चयन, किसी विशिष्ट कार्य पर खर्च की सीमा और ब्यौरे जैसे सामाजिक वानिकी के तहत लगाए जाने वाले पेड़ों की प्रजातियों का निर्णय क्षेत्र की आवश्यकताओं, भू-जलवायु, परिस्थितियों, उपयुक्त भूमि की उपलब्धता आदि को ध्यान में रखते हुए ग्राम पंचायतों द्वारा लिया जाता है ।

राज्य सरकारों/संघ शासित प्रशासनों से प्राप्त नवीनतम आंकड़ों के अनुसार 1989-90 से 1991-92 तक की अवधि के दौरान जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत देश में 4,71,029 हैक्टेयर भूमि पर 13142 लाख वृक्ष लगाए गए थे । जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत वृक्षारोपण शुरू करने वाली ग्राम पंचायतों की संख्या, लगाए जाने वाली प्रजातियों और जीवित वृक्षों के संबंध में सूचना की निगरानी राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर नहीं की जाती है ।

जवाहर रोजगार योजना के तहत 14 प्रतिशत निधियां जिला ग्रामीण विकास एजेंसियों/जिला परिषदों को दी जाती हैं ताकि वे जिले में रोजगार सृजन की योजनाएं शुरू कर सकें । सरकार ने जिला स्तर पर रखी जाने वाली सामान्य रोजगार योजना/निधियों का 25 प्रतिशत सामाजिक वानिकी के लिए निर्धारित करने के लिए मार्गदर्शिकाएं जारी की हैं ।

Restarting of Semiconductor Complex

*234. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Semiconductor Complex remained closed ever since 1987-fire; and

(b) whether Government have any plans to restart this prestigious complex with Indian expertise, including NRI assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir. The Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL) suffered a major fire accident on 7/8 February, 1989 due to which the device manufacturing and process R&D facilities were destroyed. However, an interim plan was drawn up to maintain continuity of supplies to end-users. This consisted of manufacture of modules and sub systems, stock and sale of standard devices followed by packaging of these devices at local assembly houses using imported chips, and, thereafter, sub-contracting foundry operations at M/s Austrian Mikro Systems (AMS), Austria to fabricate the SCL devices and their subsequent packaging and testing in India.

(b) Government have approved rebuilding of the facilities at SCL. Work on rebuilding is in progress with indigenous know-how available at SCL combined with the expertise of a foreign consultant, viz., M/s. Anderson De Bartolo Pan Inc., USA for design of ultra-clean areas.

High Power Committee for Heavy Engineering Corporation

235. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a high power committee to look into the problem of Heavy Engineering Corporation and suggest remedial measures to revive the Corporation; and

(b) if so, what were the recommendations of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

An Expert Committee headed by Dr. D. V. Kapoor, former Secretary, Heavy Industry is examining the Turn Around Plan (TAP) submitted by Heavy Enginering Corporation (HEC) for its revival. The Committee, in its interim recommendations, has recommended as under:—

(i) Release of Rs. 66.60 crores for arranging urgent inputs, part payment of outstanding bills and customs duty etc.

(ii) Assistance in securing orders from major customers like SAIL, Railways and VSP.

(iii) 50 per cent excise and 100 per cent sales tax remission for 1992-93 and 1993-94 to be allowed as interest free loan to be paid in five yearly equal instalments commencing 1994-95.

(iv) Waiver of electricity duty till 1995-96.

(v) Cutting down of fixed costs including administrative and maintenance costs on township; and

(vi) Further VRS in 1992-93 for 2000 more persons, etc.

Supply of rationed foodgrains to income-tax payers

*236. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been proposed to deny rationed foodgrains at subsidised rates to the people who are income-tax payers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider this decision to give foodgrains through fair price shops by reducing the quantum instead of denying them outrightly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Central Government has not taken any decision to deny rationed foodgrains at subsidised rates to the people who pay income-tax. The Public Distribution System (PDS) at present is universal in character and does not distinguish the beneficiaries based on income, occupation etc. While the Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of PDS items, and making them available at Central Issue Prices to the State Governments/UT Administrations, the implementation of PDS is done by the States/Uts. Decisions regarding inter-district allocations, opening of fair price shops, scale of entitlement and periodicity of availability etc. are taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. They may decide on entitlements to different classes of peoples based on criteria of their income, assets owned etc.

Setting up of South Asian Development Fund

*237. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India has agreed to set up a South Asian Development Fund; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The 11th Session of SAARC Council of Ministers which met at Colombo on July 8-9 has directed that a reasibility study be undertaken to examine the possibilities of mobilising global surpluses for regional development in South Asia, given the region's own resource constraints.

(b) The detailed Terms of Reference of the Study have still to be drawn up.